

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 12-18, 23-26 allowed.

. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claims 12, 23, 25-26, the cited prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a polishing method comprises a step of second chemically polishing and mechanically polishing at least the exposed projected portions of said barrier conductor layer and the conductive substance layer while supplying a polishing slurry to expose the interlaminar insulating film at locations corresponding to the projected portions of said interlaminar insulating film, with conductive substance layer at the dented portions of said barrier conductor layer remaining, in combination with the rest of the steps of claims 12, 23, 25-26

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAN VINH whose telephone number is (571)272-1471. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on 571 272 1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lan Vinh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1713